

## **The Washington Times**

The Inside Politics story "Ironie Footnote" and editorial "What Cheryl Mills knew," both from the Jan. 22 edition, exemplify an abominable trend in today's media: reporting unfounded accusations as proof of wrongdoing.

Last fall, Rep. David M. McIntosh made the ludicrous and unsubstantiated claim that President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton stole government property (the president's Christmas card list and White House social events attendance lists) and that White House deputy counsel Cheryl D. Mills committed perjury and obstruction of justice to cover up this theft. These crooked-up charges were thoroughly debunked in an extensive analysis prepared by Democratic members, and virtually no responsible media took them seriously.

Nevertheless, without even acknowledging the exhaustive record exonerating Ms. Mills, The Washington Times has resurrected Mr. McIntosh's bizarre allegations against her and reported them as fact. This is a disservice to your readers and an unfair smear of Ms. Mills.

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